

Remarks:

Claims 14-17 are pending in this application. Claims 14 and 15 are currently amended. Further examination and consideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

It is believed that the present claim amendments further define claims 14-17 over the prior art. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) is requested.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by Applicants or Applicant's undersigned representative is desirable and/or necessary, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number set forth below.

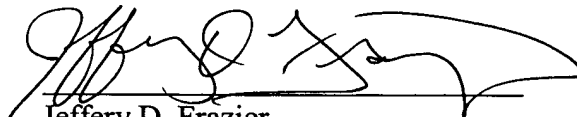
Fee Authorization and Request for Extension of Time

A Petition for a 2-Month Extension of Time is enclosed herewith. If any additional time extensions are required, such time extensions are hereby requested. If any additional fees not submitted with this response are required, please take such fees from Applied Biosystems Deposit Account No. 01-2213 (Order No. 4396D1).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

16 July 2004



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